GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of chemical fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate, potassium sulphate and super phosphate has increased manifold over the last few decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the over use of chemical fertilizers has led to a fall in per hectare agricultural production apart from exposing farmers to various health risks like cancer and kidney related problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken thereon; and

(e) the details of the steps taken to promote the use of carbonic fertilizers and bio- fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(e): Ammonium nitrate is not included in Schedule I part (A) of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 as a fertilizer. The consumption of potassium sulphate and super phosphate which was 0.32 lakh tonnes and 35.58 lakh tonnes respectively in 1991-92 came down to 0.30 lakh tonnes and 22.88 lakh tonnes respectively during 2007-08. In any case, the per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country is around 110 kg only which is far less than those of other developing countries like Sri Lanka (119 kg/ha), Pakistan (137 kg/ha), Bangladesh (166 kg/ha). There is also no scientific evidence of declining soil productivity and exposing farmers to various health risks like cancer and kidney related problems due to use of chemical fertilizers. The Government is, however, promoting integrated and balanced use of fertilizers by advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary nutrients and micro-nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers, for improving soil health and its productivity. The Government is also educating farmers through training and field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers.